



Perennials for Special Uses

Perennials That Will Tolerate Semi-Shade

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height ¹	Color	Season
<i>Anemone hepheensis</i>	Japanese anemone	24-36	Various	Sep-Oct
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	Columbine	12-24	Various	# Apr-Jun
<i>Astilbe x arendsii</i>	Astilbe	24-36	Various	Jun-Jul
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley	10	White	May
<i>Dicentra eximia</i>	Fringed Bleeding- heart	18- 24	Rose	May-Sep
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Bleeding-heart	24-36	Pink, Red	May-Jun
<i>Dictamnus albus (D. fraxinella)</i>	Gas Plant	to 36	Rose, White	May
<i>Doronicum</i> spp.	Leopard's Bane	24-30	Yellow	Apr-Jun
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	12	White	Jul
<i>Helleborus niger</i>	Christmas Rose	12-15	White	Dec-Jan
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	Daylily	18-48	Various	# May-Oct
<i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>	Coral Bells	12-24	Crimson	Jun-Jul
<i>Hypericum x moserianum</i>	St. John's-wort	24-36	Yellow	Jul-Sep
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft	to 12	White	Apr
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Cattail Gayfeather	48-60	Rose, Purple, White	Aug-Sep
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	24-36	Scarlet, Pink,	Aug-Oct
<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	Maltese Cross	24-36	Scarlet, White	Jul-Aug
<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	12-15	Blue	May-Jun
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	24-48	Various	Jul-Aug
<i>Phlox carolina</i>	Carolina Phlox	30-36	Various	Jun-Jul
<i>Primula</i> spp.	Primrose	6-30	Various	Apr-Jun
<i>Trillium grandifloru</i>	Trillium	6-18	White to Rose Pink	Apr
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	12-24	Yellow	Apr-Jun
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Tufted Pansy	6-10	Various	Apr-Oct

= *Depends on the species.*

Perennials Requiring Well-Drained Soils*

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height ¹	Color	Season
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Alpine Rockcress	6-12	White	Apr
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	36-60	Purple, Pink	Aug-Oct
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp.	Chrysanthemum	6-36	Various	Sep-Oct
<i>Chrysanthemum coccineum</i>	Painted Daisy	24-36	Red, Yellow, Pink	Jun-Jul
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Tickseed	24-36	Yellow	Jun-Sep
<i>Delphinium</i> hybrids	Delphinium	18-60	Various	Jun-Jul
<i>Dianthus plumarius</i>	Grass Pink	12-18	White, Pink	Jun
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Globe Thistle	36-48	Steel Blue	Jul-Sep
<i>Gaillardia x grandiflora</i>	Blanketflower	8-24	Red, Orange	May-Oct
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Pitcher Heliopsis	36	Orange, Yellow	Jul-Sep
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	Daylily	18-48	Various	May-Oct
<i>Iris x germanica</i>	German Iris	12-24	Various	May
<i>Paeonia</i> spp.	Peony	18-48	Various	May-Jun
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Iceland Poppy	to 24	Yellow, Orange	Jun-Oct
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental Poppy	24-48	Reds, Orange, Pink	Jun-Jul
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox	9-12	Lavender Blue	May
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	Garden Phlox	24-48	Various	Jul-Aug
<i>Phlox carolina</i>	Carolina Phlox	30-36	Various	Jun-Jul
<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Creeping Jacob's-ladder	9	Light Blue	May

* = All plants in this group will do best in full sun.

Perennials for Moist Soils

<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>	Amsonia	24-36	Light Blue	Jun
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	Goatsbeard	36-60	White	Jun
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian Bugloss	12-18	Blue	Apr-Jun
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Black Snakeroot	60-96	White	Jul-Aug
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Swamp Rose Mallow	48-60	Various	Jul-Sep
<i>Hosta sieboldiana</i>	Plantain Lily	12-18	Lavender	Apr-Jun
<i>Iris kaempferi</i>	Japanese Iris	24-36	Purple, Blue, White	Jun-Jul
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Blue Flag	36	Purplish Blue	May-Aug
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	24-36	Scarlet	Aug-Oct
<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	Lupine	36-48	Various	Jun
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple or Spiked Loosetrife	36	Purple	Jun-Sep

<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	12-15	Blue	May-Jun
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Perennials for Moist Soils (continued)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height¹	Color	Season
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Bee Balm	24-36	Ruby Red	Jul-Aug
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	True Forget-me-not	12-14	Bright Blue	May-Sep
<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	24-36	Green	Apr-Oct
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Cinnamon Fern	24-48	Green-cinnamon	Apr-Oct
<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	False Dragonhead	24-36	Shades of Pink	Jul-Sep
<i>Primula</i> spp.	Primrose	6-30	Various	Apr-Jun
<i>Saxifraga pensylvanica</i>	Swamp Saxifrage	48-60	Greenish, Yellow	Apr-Jun
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	12-36	Yellow-orange	Apr-Jun

Perennials for Dry Sandy Soils

<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort	24	White	Jul-Aug
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Carpet Bugle	6-12	Various	May-Jun
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	Yellow Camomile	18	Yellow	Jun
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i>	Silver Mound	12	Silver	Jun-Sep
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	Tickseed	36	Yellow	May
<i>Echinops ritro</i>	Globe Thistle	36-60	Blue	Jul-Aug
<i>Eupatorium coelestinum</i>	Blue Mist Flower	24-30	Blue	Aug-Oct
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge	24-36	White	Jul
<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Baby's Breath	30-48	White	Jun-Jul
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	18	Blue, White	Jun-Aug
<i>Lychnis chalcedonica</i>	Maltese Cross	24-36	Scarlet	Jul-Aug
<i>Papaver nudicaule</i>	Iceland Poppy	12	Various	Jun-Oct
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	Beardtongue	24-36	Scarlet Purple	Jun-Jul
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Goldenglow	60	Orange	Jul-Sep
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Adam's-needle	72	White	Jun-Jul

Perennials That May Be Grown in Water

<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	to 20 ft.	Reddish-White Plumes	Summer
<i>Calla palustris</i>	Bog Arum	6-9	Creamy White	May-July
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	12-36	Bright Yellow	mid-spring to early-summer
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	24-36	Yellow, Cream	late-spring to early-summer

<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	70-96	Pale Green	May-Oct
Perennials for Rock Gardens				
Botanical Name	Common Name	Height¹	Color	Season
<i>Achillea tomentosa</i>	Woolly Yarrow	6-12	Orange, Yellow	May-Jun
<i>Anemone pulsatilla</i>	Pasque Flower	8-12	Purple, White	Apr-May
<i>Arabis caucasica</i>	Alpine Rock Cress	12	White	Apr-May
<i>Aster alpinus</i>	Rock Aster	10	Blue, Purple, White	May-Jun
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Basket-of-gold	8-10	Orange, Yellow	Apr-May
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Bell-flower	8	Blue, White	Jun-Oct
<i>Geranium cinereum</i>	Cranesbill Geranium	4	Pink	Jun-Jul
<i>Globularia trichosantha</i>	Globe Daisy	8	Blue	May-Jun
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft	12	White	Apr-May
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Forget-me-not	2-6	Blue	May-Jun
<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	Blue Phlox	15	Blue	Apr-May
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Mountain Pink	3-6	Various	Apr-May
<i>Potentilla crantzii</i>	Spring Cinquefoil	6-12	Yellow	May-Jun
<i>Primula</i> spp.	Primrose	6-30	Various	Apr-Jun
<i>Veronica incana</i>	Wooly Speedwell	12-18	Blue, Rose	Jun-Jul
<i>Viola cornuta</i>	Tufted Pansy	6-10	Various	Apr-Oct

¹ **All heights are in inches unless noted otherwise.**

Resource: *Perennials for Special Uses*, Leaflet D-2-12, Cornell Cooperative Extension - Nassau County, 1984.

Revised by Thomas Kowalsick, Senior Horticulture Consultant, Cornell Cooperative Extension – Suffolk County, 1/93.

The scientific and common names are written and spelled according to *Hortus Third A Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada*. Cornell University for its L. H. Bailey Hortorium. 1976.

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